

July 22, 2013

# COWCHIP

## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

### July

25 Vermilion Parish Cattlemen's Association Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Hebert's Steakhouse,  
Ryegrass Seed Bids considered

### August

9 Deadline for Master Cattle Producer Registration (see article)

9 Deadline for Post Order

## **MASTER CATTLE PRODUCER:**

We will be offering the Master Cattle Producer Course again this year. It is a series of 10 classes that will be offered starting late August 2013 and will conclude late October. It will be every Monday evening during this time except for Labor Day. Each class will last about three hours, starting at 6:00 p.m. A meal will be served at each meeting. The cost is \$125.00 per person to cover meals, teaching materials and a metallic sign for all graduates.

Subjects included in the course are:

- Nutrition
- Pasture Management
- Breeding and Genetics
- Reproduction
- Herd Health
- Cattle Handling
- End Product
- Record Keeping
- Marketing

In addition, the Environmental Stewardship portion of the Master Farmer course and Beef Quality Assurance class are required for graduation and will be offered.

If you are interested in this course please fill out the enclosed form and return it along with a check made payable to the Vermilion Parish Cattlemen's Association by August 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **POSTS:**

Since Hurricane Rita, the Vermilion Cattlemen's Association has brought in several truckloads of wooden posts. It allows ranchers to purchase these at wholesale prices. To make it work we need about 2,500 posts ordered. We will take orders for 3" x 6½ foot, 6" x 8 foot, 2½" x 6½ foot and 5½" x 8 foot posts. The prices are on the order blank. To participate, fill out the attached order blank and mail it to Andrew Granger with full payment by check made out to Vermilion Parish Cattlemen's Association by August 9th. We will hold all checks until delivery of the posts. Again, at least one truckload must be ordered for us to proceed.

## **HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS:**

It's that time of year again. The threat of devastating storms is real here in Vermilion Parish as we know all too well. While we can't truly protect our fences and facilities, we can take steps now that will minimize the impact and make a return to normal much quicker and easier. Below is a checklist Dr. Christine Navarre, Extension Veterinarian developed. It is a good reminder and suggestion list. I would add and stress that it is important to have a place to store hay out of the flood area. As much as half of your winter hay should probably be kept out of harms way. I know that several of you have leased pasture or otherwise made arrangements for safe havens for your cattle. If not, you should be contacting your neighbors to the north to ask for use of some pasture at least until the water subsides and fences repaired. In addition, we have demonstrated after both Ike and Rita that ryegrass will come up and produce on salty land, so make plans to plant ryegrass on ground shortly after the flood.

Here is the checklist.

### **Farm Environment**

- Do preventive trimming of trees around barns, driveway and fences.
- have on hand materials to mend fence or to build a temporary fence.
- Nail down all loose pieces of tin on barns.
- Attach extra guide wires to augers on grain bins.
- Have some extra tarps or shade cloth available in order to cover equipment if a roof is blown off or to provide temporary shade.
- Remove shade cloth from portable shade structures to prevent damage.

### **Equipment**

- Fill all tractors, vehicles, generators and storage containers with fuel.
- Service generator and make sure they are operational.
- Run the generator under a load for a couple of hours at least every two months.
- Set up generators in place before a storm.
- If using a PTO-type generator, make sure the tractor being used has no fuel or oil leaks to prevent fire hazard.

### **Feed and Water**

- Have about a two-week supply of all feedstuffs needed.
- Have an emergency supply of water.
- Move round bales from low-lying areas to an area that is readily accessible.

### **Animals**

- Evaluate the herd health program.
- Identify animals.
- Have health papers if needed.
- Store records in a safe location.
- Have an evacuation plan if needed.

- Move all animals to high ground if possible.
- Have a supply of emergency veterinary supplies.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Have some cash on hand (often credit cards will not work).
- Coordinate plans with other local agricultural groups.
- Partner with other farms in remote areas for help.

### **CONTROL PARASITES IN SUCKLING CALVES:**

A management practice which is often overlooked but pays off in significantly increased weaning weights is deworming calves while they suckle. The cow produces the highest quantity of milk, known as peak lactation, about 60 days after calving and slowly decreases over time. On the other hand, the growing calf requires increased nutrients over time. The milk it gets from its mother becomes a supplement to the grass he is grazing. Grazing introduces the calf to internal parasites and with time the parasite infection can become significant, thus limiting intake and growth.

A mid-summer deworming has been shown to increase weaning weights 20-40 pounds. With the warm, wet summer we've been having, parasite activity has been continuous. Parasite infections could be high. The higher the infection the more growth is retarded. Conservative estimates suggest \$5.00 return for every dollar invested but may be more significant this year.

Studies suggest that it doesn't seem to matter what product you use. Although it is probably best to inject or drench the calves. The best time is when calves are 3-4 months old but as long as you are 30 to 40 days before weaning you should be see adequate performance improvement and fulfill withdrawal times.

Growing cattle are the most affected by parasites. Worm your calves to improve their response to vaccination, increase grazing and improve weaning weights.

### **MARKET FACTORS:**

Corn plantings shown in the USDA-NASS Acreage report were larger than anticipated, nearly matching last year's and above 97 million acres. Last year several states outside the Midwest (Corn Belt) planted more corn acres and that trend continued this year.

In fact, this year most Corn Belt states (IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, MO, OH, and WI) planted less acres than in 2012. Only Michigan and Ohio reported any increases at all. As a whole, the Corn Belt states are down 1.1 million acres or 1.9%, but still will account for 57% of corn plantings. Many southeastern states continued to post large corn acreage increases in 2013. Compared to a year ago, Georgia jumped 45%, Arkansas increased 41%, and Louisiana was up 39%. Overall, corn acreage in the southeast is up about 10%, but represents only 8% of the corn acres planted in the U.S. Some states highlighted last year, again increased acreage the most notable being Texas, up 30%, North Dakota up 8% and Nebraska is up 2%.

The U.S. gain in acreage (only up .2%) however did not drive futures market corn prices down, it is yield potential. Moisture in winter and spring has changed the drought monitor significantly from last year. All of the Corn Belt is free of drought, but most of the southern plains is still very dry. Yield is expected to increase at least 25 bushels per acre and return the U.S. much closer to the trend line. Prices are forecast to decrease over \$2 per bushel for the 2013-14 crop-marketing year. The LMIC forecast is currently at \$4.60 per bushel, down 33% from 2012-13.

Back to the corn plantings outside the Corn Belt; harvest in southern states will be much earlier than the Midwest and Florida and Texas have already been harvesting silage. A major concern has been the short corn supply in transition between the old and new crop-years. Southern acres will help buffer that situation.

### **HORSE SLAUGHTER:**

The last plant to process horses in the U.S. closed six years ago. The result was a decline in the value of horses, increased cases of horse abuse, and an exodus of horses moving across the border to be processed in plants that were possibly not subject to the same standards as U.S. plants.

The ban on horse slaughter in the U.S. expired in 2011, but USDA kept the ban alive, in effect, by not issuing inspectors to the plants. USDA subsequently lost a lawsuit whereby the agency was instructed to begin to provide inspection services. Two plants – the first in New Mexico and the second in Iowa – have now received USDA approval. In addition, a third plant, this one in Missouri, has asked for, and is expected to receive, permission as well.

There's been a lot of excitement within the horse industry that the return of horse slaughter to the U.S. will eliminate many problems the industry has experienced – on both the price and humane care fronts – since the processing ban was initiated. While the prospective plants are all indicating that they will ramp up production, it may be premature to say that the return of horse slaughter has indeed returned to the U.S.

The Humane Society of the U.S. has filed suit requesting injunctive relief to stop the processing of horses, and the Obama administration has requested Congress to reinstitute the ban. With the political polarity in Congress, no one can predict that such a ban will be reinstated, but the question is whether the plants have enough confidence that the ban will remain shelved if the House majority reverts back to the Democrats in 2014. The way seems to be cleared for a reinstatement of horse slaughter, but the hurdles remain.

### **FARM BILL UPDATE:**

Following House passage of a "farm-only" farm bill last Thursday, National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) President Scott George noted that overall, provisions in the bill could benefit beef producers.

"Passage of a 2013 Farm Bill is the top priority for NCBA, and today the House took the unprecedented step in separating the nutrition title from the farm bill, and passing a bill that only encompasses agriculture," George said in a statement. "This step is a major departure from the usual business of agricultural policy, but I am pleased that cattlemen and women are one step closer toward final legislation which not only provides certainty for producers, but also incorporates priorities important to the cattle industry."

George noted that NCBA is pleased that the legislation includes disaster programs, which will extend disaster assistance for five years and retroactively cover losses in 2012 and 2013. The legislation also authorizes conservation programs and contains language to prevent the USDA from moving forward on the proposed GIPSA rule from the 2008 Farm Bill, George said

**PLEASE RETURN BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup> TO ANDREW GRANGER, 1105 W. PORT ST.,  
ABBEVILLE, LA 70510**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order

\_\_\_\_\_ 3" x 6½' line posts x \$2.65 = \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_ 2½" x 6½' line post x \$2.05 = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 6" x 8' corner posts x \$11.15 = \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_ 5½" x 8' corner post x \$8.45 = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO VPCA

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Sincerely,

Andrew Granger  
County Agent  
Vermilion Parish

*It is the policy of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability.*



# Louisiana Master Cattle Producer Program

## Registration Form

(Please Print Legibly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_ Area Code & Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish of Cattle Operation if different from Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

The following requirements must be completed in the next two years to become a Master Cattle Producer :

- 1) Environmental Stewardship (Master Farmer) - 8 hours
- 2) Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification-presented by Louisiana Cattlemen’s Association (LCA).
- 3) Completion of the following three hour lectures:
 

-Animal Handling	-Nutrition
-Reproduction	-Animal Breeding and Selection
-Pasture Management I	-Pasture Management II
-Financial Planning I	-Financial Planning II
-Animal Health	-End Product

The cost of Master Cattle Producer certification is \$125.00. Please make checks out to: Vermilion Parish Cattlemen’s Association and mail to:

ANDREW GRANGER  
1105 WEST PORT STREET  
ABBEVILLE, LA 70510